

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14400
San Francisco, CA 94102

Contact: Victoria B. Henley
Director-Chief Counsel
(415) 557-1200

FOR RELEASE
September 23, 2010

JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE COMMISSION INSTITUTES FORMAL
PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING JUDGE DEANN M. SALCIDO

The Commission on Judicial Performance has instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge DeAnn M. Salcido of the San Diego County Superior Court. The commencement of formal proceedings is not a determination of judicial misconduct. The formal proceedings concern allegations that the judge improperly videotaped court proceedings to promote herself for a potential television entertainment program, made statements giving the appearance that she was scheduling cases based on their possible appeal in the videotaped proceedings, made numerous improper remarks and engaged in improper conduct both during the videotaped proceedings and on other occasions, had a defendant taken into custody for direct contempt without affording her due process or complying with the legal requirements for contempt, and directed comments to the courtroom audience that failed to uphold a high standard of conduct.

It is alleged that these actions constitute willful misconduct in office, conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute and improper action.

In accordance with the rules that govern Commission proceedings, a hearing will be conducted by Special Masters appointed by the Supreme Court. At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Judge Salcido is represented by attorney Heather L. Rosing, Esq., of Klinedinst PC in San Diego, California.

Following completion of the hearing, the Special Masters will provide the Commission with a report containing findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to present their views on the report to the Commission through briefing and argument. If the Commission determines that charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to remove, censure, publicly admonish, or privately discipline the judge. Charges that the Commission determines are not proved will be dismissed. A determination by the Commission to remove, censure, or admonish a judge is subject to discretionary review by the Supreme Court upon petition by the judge.

The Notice of Formal Proceedings is available for public inspection at the Commission office. A copy of the Notice of Formal Proceedings is also posted on the Commission's Web site at www.cjp.ca.gov (under "Press Releases"). Judge Salcido's Answer to the Notice is due October 7, 2010. Upon filing, the judge's Answer will be made available for public inspection.

The Commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The Chairperson is the Hon. Judith D. McConnell of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, in San Diego, California. Justice McConnell and Peter E. Flores, Jr., Esq., are recused in this matter. The Honorable Katherine Feinstein is presiding.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the Commission's Web site.